REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-6, and 9-22 are pending in the present application. According to the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, the rejection of claims 3, 4 and 16 were reversed. Claim 3 has been cancelled and the subject matter of this claim has been incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this claim is allowable. Applicants also submit that claims 2, 4-6, 9-15 and 17-22 are also allowable by virtue of their dependency (either directly or indirectly) from amended claim 1. Applicants also submit that claim 16 is allowable in view of the Board's decision.

Applicants submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that such action be taken.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application would be advanced by contact with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

The Office is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Zeba Ali Reg. No. 51,392

Date: 7-23-00

1500 K St. Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20005-1257 General Tel: 202-220-4200 Direct Dial: 202-220-4265

Direct Dial: 202-220-4265 Fax: 202-220-4201